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In This Issue

Nova Scotia Sends a Large Delegation to PDAC 2006

Black Bull Poised for Production

Change at the Top for Geological Services Division

Atlantic Geoscience Society Colloquium 2006

From the Mineral Inventory Files

Taking a Team Approach to Industrial Minerals

October-December 2005 Open Assessment Reports

Senior Geologist R. R. (Ralph) Stea Retires

Update on the Donkin Coal Resource Block

Dates to Remember

Comments or questions? Please contact:

Doug MacDonald
Editor, *Nova Scotia Minerals Update*
Mineral Resources Branch
P.O. Box 698, Halifax
Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2T9
Phone 902-424-2510
E-mail drmacdon@gov.ns.ca
Link to a full-colour .pdf:
http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/meb/pdf/mu.htm

NOVA SCOTIA
Natural Resources

Nova Scotia Sends a Large Delegation to PDAC 2006

Nova Scotia was well represented at the 2006 Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) convention, which was held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre from March 5 to 8, with a large team of government and industry representatives. And what a year it was! Preliminary estimates show that more than 14,000 delegates attended this year's conference, representing many countries from all continents. The conference has truly grown from its early days at the Royal York Hotel, where it was largely a national event, into what is arguably the premier gathering point for financing global mineral exploration and development.

Representatives from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) included the Hon. Brooke Taylor, Minister, Peter Underwood, Deputy Minister, and Mineral Resources Branch representatives Scott Swinden, Mike MacDonald, Bob Ryan, and Ron Mills. The Regional Geologist for the eastern region, Brendan MacKenzie, also attended the conference. Two key events were hosted by Minister Taylor in the Nova Scotia Room at the Royal York Hotel. On Tuesday morning, March 7, approximately 20 members of the mineral exploration sector attended the annual Nova Scotia Mining Breakfast. This event provided an excellent opportunity for industry representatives to interact with DNR representatives to discuss exploration-related topics. Later in the day, Mr. Taylor hosted

Minister of Natural Resources the Honourable Brooke Taylor (L) is joined by prospector John Wightman (C) and Executive Director of the Mineral Resources Branch Scott Swinden (R) at PDAC 2006.

Deputy Minister of Natural Resources Peter Underwood (L) welcomes visitors to the Nova Scotia booth with Regional Geologist Brendan MacKenzie (C) and Geologist Ron Mills (R).

the second annual Nova Scotia Investors luncheon, which was attended by 15 members from the mineral investment community. Presentations by Mr. Taylor and DNR geologist Bob Ryan focused on investment opportunities in the province. Both events were well received by the attendees.

So how do prospectors from Nova Scotia, one of the smallest provinces in Canada, manage to get their mineral potential message out to this international conference? One important way is through the Atlantic Rock Room (ARR), a tradition at the conference for many years. When the conference was moved from the Royal York Hotel to the Metro Toronto Convention Centre in the 1990s, conference organizers agreed to keep the Rock Room tradition alive and provided an area on the floor for prospectors and government agencies from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland and Labrador. The 2006 roster of Nova Scotia prospectors included, in alphabetical order: Lindsay Allen, Don Black, Scott Grant, Bruce Hudgins, Gerry Mazerolle, Ted MacNaughton, John O'Sullivan, George Pajari, Larry Riteman, and John Wightman. This year DNR provided travel assistance to the prospectors, and staff geologist Ron Mills worked closely with the group to prepare banners, posters, and hand-outs for their properties. By all accounts the prospectors got some great leads at the convention. Hopefully these will lead to exploration activity and new mineral discoveries.

The PDAC convention continues to grow in size and international content. This presents a challenge for Nova Scotia to attract investment dollars in an increasingly competitive setting. DNR will continue to work with its provincial explorationists to get the message out that Nova Scotia is a good destination for mineral exploration and development.

Mike MacDonald

Black Bull Poised for Production

Nova Scotia's Black Bull Resources Inc. has announced that the construction and commissioning phase of operations has been successfully completed at its White Rock property some 30 km northwest of Shelburne in Yarmouth County.

The plant is now staffed and a superintendent is managing operations. Production was scheduled to commence on 16 January with the processing of sample orders of quartz requested by prospective customers. The products will be sold under the brand Scotia White®. The company said that the approval process for these samples will vary by market segment but that it could be from 3 to 12 weeks before meaningful orders materialize.

In addition to progress at the plant, an additional 12,000 tonnes of material has been blasted to add to the existing inventory and ensure the company has adequate feedstock for the new processing plant during the winter.

The material will be aimed at five different markets - pool plaster aggregate, engineered stone, exterior insulation and finishing systems (EIFS), landscape stone and golf course sand. These are all quite specialized markets, which largely reflects the fact that the company will be able to achieve higher prices in these markets than in more commodity areas for silica, such as glass sand. The nature of the Black Bull material, being angular and bright white, is also suited to these niche areas.

US Silica (USS) is the sales agent for most of North America except in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, where Black Bull will sell direct. The agency deal offers Black Bull the experience, reputation, and most importantly infrastructure of USS, while the partnership offers USS access to a white, angular material it cannot source from any of its own quarry operations. Black Bull has been working with USS to identify additional market opportunities.

reproduced (with permission) from *Industrial Minerals*, February 2006, page 8

Change at the Top for Geological Services Division

Former Director Mike Cherry.

As most readers are probably already aware, Mike Cherry, Director of the Geological Services Division, retired in December. Mike had been planning for retirement at about this time in his life, but those plans were hastened by his decision to get married in Ottawa in 2006. Mike came to the Geological Services Division in 1999, after spending about 10 years working in the Federal-Provincial Liaison Office at the Geological Survey of Canada, and managing the NATMAP program. Mike brought to the division a wealth of experience, gleaned from work with two provincial surveys (Newfoundland, Ontario) as well as the GSC, and his broad and deep knowledge of geological surveys in all parts of the country. Mike's tenure with DNR spanned the lean years of 2000 - 2003 when budgets were drastically reduced and we were faced with significant decisions about the future of our geoscience programs. Mike's focus on people, and his impressive organizational skills, not to mention his well-developed network in Ottawa, served us very well as we worked to establish new partnerships and new ways of doing business in the face of diminishing resources.

In terms of his lasting contribution to the organization, I would highlight three items. First, Mike recognized clearly that the future of the Geological Services Division depends on a broad client base, and he worked to define that broader base and ensure that we have the ability to offer our services in non-traditional areas such as tourism and environmental sciences. Second, Mike was instrumental in our efforts to build partnerships throughout government. He recognized that in order to show our value and importance to government, we have to ensure that our skills and services are widely known and used. Mike worked hard to present our programs to Regional Development Agencies, communities, and other government departments and organizations, and some of these partnerships have born considerable fruit. The third item is the strategic plan for geoscience that he completed late last year. This document will serve as a blueprint for the future of Nova Scotia's geoscience organization and will help define the direction of its programs. We are fortunate to have had Mike here and wish him all the best in his new life.

Following a national competition, the position of Director of Geological Services, vacated by Mike Cherry's departure, has been filled by Mike MacDonald. Mike is no stranger to the mineral industry and the geoscience community in Nova Scotia, having previously served as project leader on the South Mountain Batholith project, Industry Liaison Geologist, and Manager of Geological Mapping and Geochemistry. Mike steps into this position at a critical juncture. With budgets more or less stabilized, at least for the time being, and with a strategic planning exercise recently completed, there will be ample opportunity to work to ensure the effectiveness of our present geoscience programs and to secure the future of the organization. With mineral industry activity near the peak of the cycle, and many opportunities to have our geoscience knowledge applied in non-traditional areas of society, there will certainly be challenges to ensuring that we have the appropriate resources and staff, and that our mandate is met as fully as possible. We welcome Mike to his new position as Director and wish him every success.

Scott Swinden

New Director Mike MacDonald.

Atlantic Geoscience Society Colloquium 2006

The first weekend of February has become the traditional date for geologists across the Maritimes to brave the depths of winter and gather to discuss their latest findings. This year they drove through rain and fog to Wolfville, NS, to attend the 32nd colloquium and annual meeting of the Atlantic Geoscience Society (AGS) in the Old Orchard Inn, hosted by Acadia University. The conference set many new records for the society: over 200 participants, six special session topics, a first Polar Geoscience session, over 70 oral presentations in three simultaneous sessions, and over 40 posters.

The conference began on the afternoon of February 3rd with a workshop on cathodoluminescence techniques at the Acadia Centre for Microstructural Analysis (ACMA), offered by Michael Robertson (Acadia Physics Dept.), Dan MacDonald (ACMA) and Peir Pufahl (Acadia Geology Dept.). Evening sessions on "Structure and Sedimentology of Hydrocarbon-prospective Basins", organized by Dave Keighley and Les Fyffe and "Mineral Deposits Geology", organized by the SEG chapters of Dalhousie, Memorial and St. Mary's universities and the University of New Brunswick, complemented a session on general research in Atlantic Canada. Talks ran from 7 till 10 pm, when the colloquium transferred to the packed poster room in the Fireside Lounge where discussion continued into the small hours of the morning.

On Saturday, an 8 a.m. call started a full-day special session on "Polar Geoscience", organized by Trecia Schell (Dalhousie University) and Marie-Claude Williamson (GSC-Atlantic), which included invited lectures on the Northwest Passage by André Rochon (Université du Québec à Rimouski) and Nares Strait by Gordon Oakey (GSC-Atlantic) and a concluding keynote presentation on "Differentiation Mechanisms in the Basement Sill, Ferrar Province, Antarctica", by Jean Bédard (GSC - Quebec City), sponsored by Acadian Gold and Corridor Resources. Other sessions on Saturday focused on Environmental Geosciences (organized by Grant Ferguson, St. Francis Xavier University and Ian Spooner, Acadia University), and Sediment Dynamics of the Greater Bay of Fundy, organized by Elisabeth Kosters (Wolfville) and Anna Redden (Acadia Estuarine Centre). Finally, the very active Education Committee organized a session on education outreach, which included several presentations by high school teachers. A highlight of the afternoon was a preview of the new Halifax Harbour video. This is the fifth video produced by the AGS, featuring many local earth scientists who transport viewers back in time (both geological and historical) and deep beneath the waves to reveal some of the hidden stories of the harbour.

The conference concluded with an evening banquet, where we were treated by David Mosher (GSC-Atlantic) to an overview of the discoveries of the Sumatra Earthquake and Tsunami Offshore Survey team which discovered a fresh 12 m scarp in the Sumatran Trench, likely on the fault that caused the 2004 tsunami, including the video that didn't make it on to the Discovery Channel!

The society presented the Rupert MacNeill award for the best student oral presentation to Adam Layman (Dalhousie University) who, with his supervisor Alan Anderson (St. Francis Xavier University), discussed "Preliminary Investigations of Nb in Melt-fluid Systems Using *in situ* X-ray Spectroscopy." The Graham Williams award for best student poster was presented to Brent Lennox of Acadia University who co-authored a poster with his supervisor Ian Spooner on "Post-glacial Climate Change and Its Effect on the Thermal Structure and Habitat in a Shallow Dimictic Lake, Nova Scotia, Canada." As always the judges complained about the difficulty of making any awards on account of the high calibre of many of the talks and posters. The judges should be congratulated on their efforts in assessing 40 student poster and oral presentations.

The society recognized two outstanding scientists in the region. The society's distinguished service award was made to Sandra Barr (Acadia University) who has been a stalwart of the society for almost 30 years. As past-president, attendee at almost every colloquium, and long-time editor of the AGS journal, *Atlantic Geology*, Sandra has consistently supported the efforts of the society to promulgate the findings of the geoscience community in Atlantic Canada. In her acceptance speech she revealed that, as an undergraduate student assistant at UNB in 1966, she in fact was involved in the lay-out of a very early issue of the journal. The society awarded its Gesner Medal for outstanding research in Atlantic Canada to Barrie Clarke of Dalhousie University, who has devoted much of his academic career to the investigation of the mineralogy, petrology and petrogenesis of the South Mountain Batholith.

Following the evening banquet, the Mud Creek Boys (J.P. Huang, Peter Williams and Ian Spooner) kicked off the evening's musical entertainment, which continued into the morning hours with contributions by many others including Scott Swinden, John Waldron, Mike Melchin, John Shimeld, Patrick Potter, Gordon Oakey and Mike MacDonald.

AGS officers for the coming year took over as of the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, and include new President Ian Spooner (Acadia University), Vice-Presdient Mike Parsons (GSC - Atlantic), and Secretary Rob Raeside (Acadia University). Ken Howells (Howells Geoscience) continued in the Treasurer's role. For more information about AGS, visit the website at http://ags.earthsciences.dal.ca/index.htm.

Rob Raeside

From the Mineral Inventory Files

Duelling Banjos on the Stewiacke

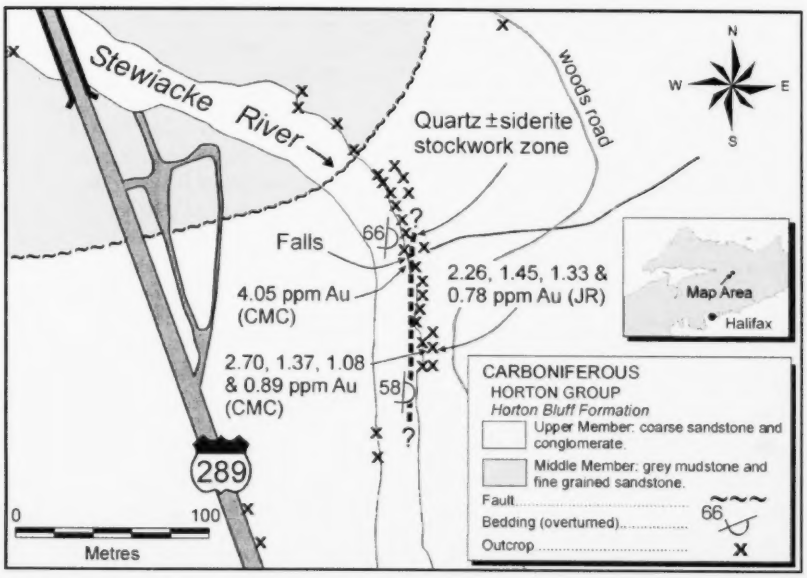


***Figure 1**. Map of the Stewiacke River gold prospect showing locations of gold-bearing samples obtained by Caledonia Mining Corporation (CMC) and Joe Richman (JR).*

An interesting gold prospect is exposed in Carboniferous sedimentary rocks of the Horton Group on the Stewiacke River near its headwaters in southeast Colchester County (Fig. 1). Located 4 km north of Eastville on Highway #289, the occurrence was discovered in 1994 by Caledonia Mining Corporation (CMC) of Scotland during regional exploration for paleoplacer gold deposits. CMC focused its exploration on the Horton Group in the St. Marys Graben, an east-west, fault-bounded basin that dominates central Nova Scotia.

Horton Group sediments host several paleoplacer gold deposits (see *Nova Scotia Minerals Update, vol. 9*) and three actually produced gold, most notably 2,268 oz. from the Coldstream, or Gays River deposit, just northeast of Shubenacadie. Sediments of the Horton Group have the two prime ingredients thought necessary for paleoplacer gold: (1) a suitable sedimentary host rock (Horton Group) and (2) a source of gold, the abundant gold-bearing lode deposits of the Meguma Group, from which the sediment was derived.

In 1994 CMC discovered a sample on the Stewiacke River with an anomalous gold concentration. Follow-up exploration revealed five more anomalous samples, with the highest returning 4.05 ppm gold (DNR Assessment Report ME-1996-060; Fig. 1). Since CMC was interested in paleoplacer deposits, the company concentrated on sampling coarse-grained units such as pebble-bearing arenites and quartz-pebble conglomerates (Fig. 2). Even though its exploration results were promising, CMC surprisingly elected to abandon its Nova Scotia exploration play. The property was again examined in 2000 by local prospector Joe Richman, who found similar gold concentrations in the same units sampled by CMC (Fig. 1).

Anyone visiting the Stewiacke River property will probably note that, even though there are promising paleoplacer host rocks such as quartz-pebble conglomerates (Fig. 2B), there has also been considerable deformation and hydrothermal alteration of the rocks and injection of quartz-siderite stockwork zones (Fig. 2A). This alteration was noted by CMC geologists, who wondered if the gold there might actually be epithermal in origin and related to alteration rather than being mechanically deposited as a paleoplacer. In addition, it was found that the samples with elevated gold were not always obtained from the most attractive paleoplacer units, such as the quartz pebble conglomerates. Instead, the higher concentrations were found in coarse sandy units. In any event, it remains to be demonstrated just how, and within which units, the gold occurs. Whatever the origin, the site demonstrates a potential for similar deposits throughout the Horton Group.

G. A. O'Reilly

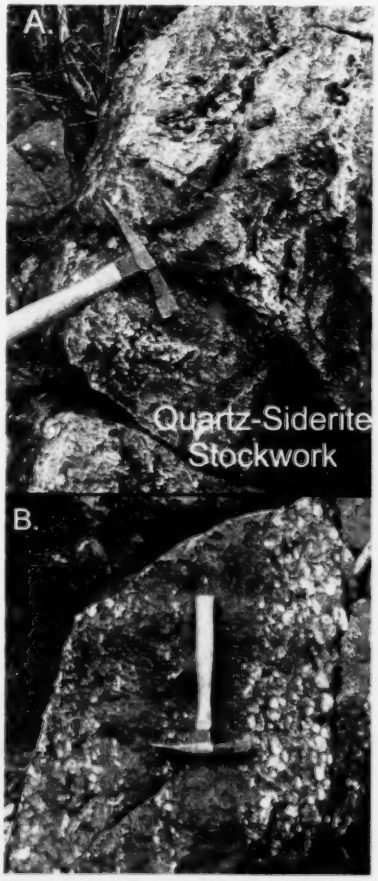


***Figure 2**. (A) Quartz-siderite alteration zone and (B) quartz pebble conglomerate at the Stewiacke River gold prospect.*

Taking a Team Approach to Industrial Minerals

A small group from Nova Scotia, including Garth DeMont from DNR, Francis Gillies from the Strait-Highlands Regional Development Agency (RDA), and Bob Macdonald, representing Glencoe Resources, will head off to San Francisco on March 25th to attend the 18th Industrial Minerals International Congress in San Francisco. DNR has purchased booth space again this year to highlight the industrial mineral resources of Nova Scotia.

Francis and I share something in common, because it will be our first time attending a major international Industrial Mineral Conference. We have been preparing for this adventure since 2000, when DNR formed a working partnership with Strait-Highlands RDA, Office of Economic Development, and Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation. Together, we have pursued several industrial mineral projects since that time, including resource assessments of the River Denys marble deposit, the Eden clay deposit, and the Glencoe, Glendale and North Mountain carbonate deposits. We have seen one success story to date, the development of the River Denys marble deposit by Macleod Resources. All of the industrial mineral resources of the province will be promoted at the conference, but our focus this year will be: (1) to attract a lime or cement plant operation to Nova Scotia to develop the extensive carbonate resources of Cape Breton Island, (2) to attract an aggregate company to develop the province's deep water aggregate resources, and (3) to encourage development of Nova Scotia barite and fluorite deposits. Four new Information Circulars promoting these opportunities, co-financed by DNR, Strait-Highlands RDA and Office of Economic Development, were produced this year to assist us with our marketing efforts.

Garth DeMont

October - December 2005 Open Assessment Reports

Report Number	NTS	Licensee
AR ME 1981-042	11D/12B, C 11D/13B, C 21A/09B, C, D 21A/16A, B, C, D	Saarberg Interplan Canada Limited
AR ME 2001-062	21A/16D	True Metallic Explorations Incorporated
AR ME 2003-061	11F/11A, D	Intragaz Limited Partnership
AR ME 2003-062	11E/13A, B	Intragaz Limited Partnership
AR ME 2003-063	11D/14A	Ellsin Resources Incorporated
AR ME 2003-064	11E/01D 11E/08A	Grant, S
AR ME 2003-067	11F/04C	McAllister, K
AR ME 2003-068	11F/14C, D	Glencoe Resources Incorporated
AR ME 2003-069	11F/14D	Alva Construction Limited
AR ME 2003-070	11D/16C	Newfoundland Goldbar Resources Incorporated
AR ME 2003-071	21A/07B	Hooper, J
AR ME 2003-073	11F/14A	Richman, J
AR ME 2003-074	21A/04B	Grant, S
AR ME 2003-075	11E/01D 11E/08A	Grant, S
AR ME 2003-076	11E/03B	Thomson, A C
AR ME 2003-077	11E/02A	Votix Corporation Limited
AR ME 2003-078	11D/15D	Votix Corporation Limited
AR ME 2003-079	11E/01C	Votix Corporation Limited
AR ME 2003-080	11E/02A, D	Votix Corporation Limited
AR ME 2003-081	11D/14D 11D/15C	Votix Corporation Limited
AR ME 2003-082	11F/14C, D	Isenor, G P
AR ME 2003-083	11F/04B	MacNaughton, T
AR ME 2003-084	11E/06C	Cullen, M P
AR ME 2003-085	11E/06D	Cullen, M P
AR ME 2003-086	11E/02A	Acadian Gold Corporation
AR ME 2003-087	11E/01A, D 11F/04B, C	Votix Corporation Limited, Goldenville Mining Corporation
AR ME 2003-088	11D/13B, C	Votix Corporation Limited
AR ME 2003-089	11E/01D	Votix Corporation Limited
AR ME 2003-090	11E/06D 11E/11A	Grant, S
AR ME 2003-091	11E/02A	Acadian Gold Corporation
AR ME 2003-092	11E/03B	Thomson, A C
AR ME 2003-093	11E/03B	Thomson, A C
AR ME 2003-094	11F/14A	Richman, J
AR ME 2003-095	11E/01A	Ross, J I; Meguma Resource Enterprises Incorporated

Susan Saunders and Norman Lyttle

Senior Geologist R. R. (Ralph) Stea Retires

I've been everywhere, man. - Johnny Cash

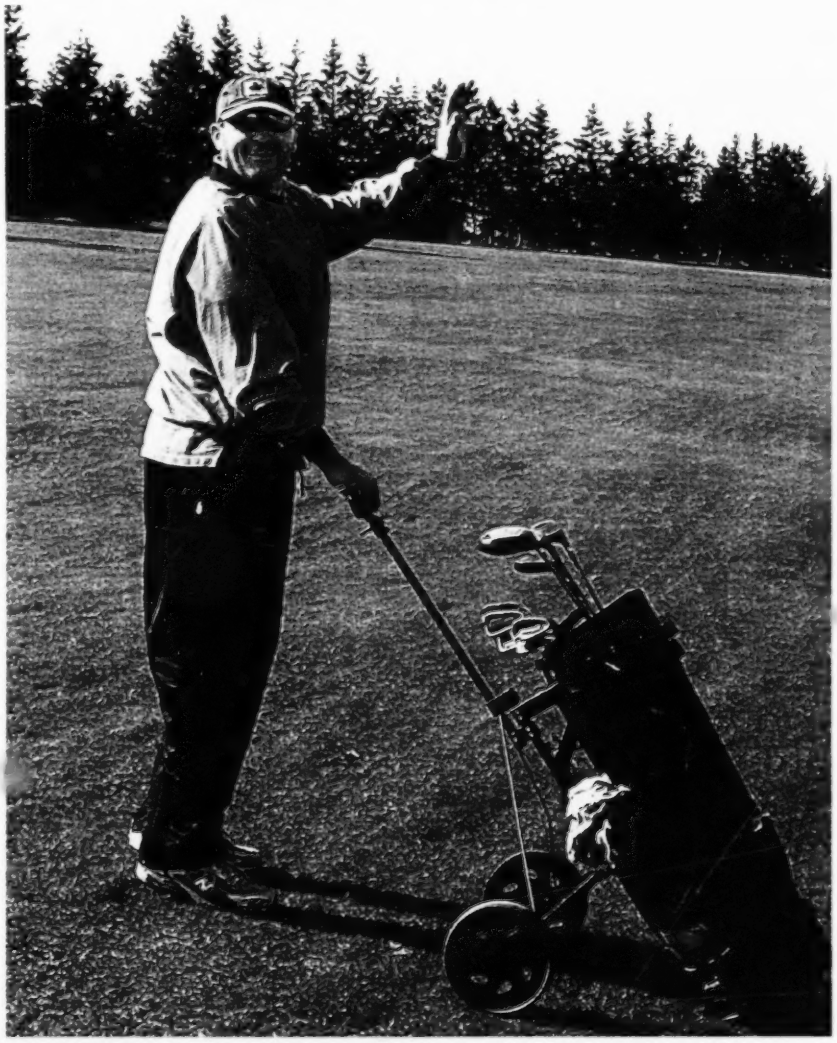
When it comes to the back roads of Nova Scotia, man, nobody has travelled on more than Geologist Ralph Stea.

Ralph grew up in Montreal, Quebec, and Pickering, Ontario. In 1973 he began his geology training at Mount Allison University, where he received an athletic scholarship. One Saturday in October 1974 Ralph scored his fourth touchdown of the day in a Mount Allison rout of Dalhousie University. As he ran through the end zone, resplendent in the garnet and gold uniform and with the football still securely tucked under one arm, he continued across the adjacent field of tennis courts and on to the New Brunswick Liquor Control Commission store, which was visible from my vantage point about 800 metres away. He returned by the same route to the field, this time with the football tucked under one arm and a bottle of red wine under the other. In 1975 he transferred to Acadia University and was part of the football team that went to the National University Championship (Vanier Cup) in 1976. He graduated from Acadia with a B. Sc. in geology in 1977.

Ralph started work with the former Nova Scotia Department of Mines right after graduation. Through the next 29 years he travelled the back roads of the province creating surficial geology maps of virtually the entire landmass. These maps are used extensively by mineral exploration companies, geotechnical firms, land-use planners, pipeline developers and government. Along the way he discovered deposits of clay, sand, kaolin and gold. Ralph has documented the character of gold dispersal in till down-ice of bedrock gold deposits, the key to prospecting in areas of glaciated terrain. He used educational leave to obtain an M. Sc. in 1982 and a Ph. D. in 1995. His research during these courses of study added immensely to our knowledge of the geology of Nova Scotia, including too many research innovations to list here. But Ralph's feet are too large and firmly planted on the ground to be content under a desk. For Ralph, the first principle is to place the geologist in the field, where observation comes first.

Ralph has recently become involved in the diamond exploration business in northern Canada, but the future of his geoscience career could go in any direction. It will almost certainly involve dirt roads and occasional stops just to enjoy the view. The department is fortunate that Ralph has decided to maintain his link to DNR as an Emeritus Scientist. This link should be of great assistance to a new surficial geologist who may start travelling on those same back roads, with Ralph's maps and field notes in hand. For the rest of us who have worked with him for so long, we'll just be happy to see our friend now and then.

Doug MacDonald



Ralph Stea enjoys some divot sampling on a rolling till plain near the Halifax Airport.

Update on the Donkin Coal Resource Block

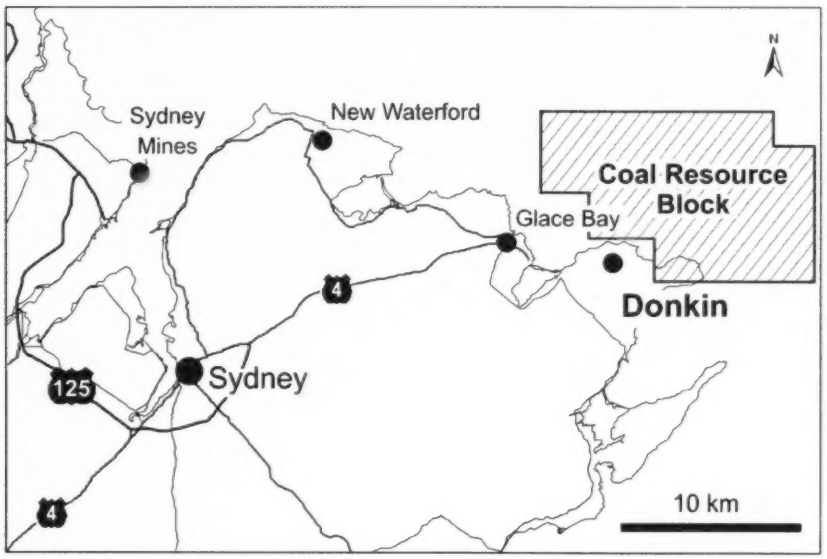
On December 14, 2005, the Minister of Natural Resources announced that the Xstrata Donkin Mine Development Alliance is the successful proponent for the Donkin Coal Resource Block. The Xstrata Alliance now holds the exclusive right to apply for mineral tenure over the resource block for a 270 day period.

The Department of Natural Resources issued a call for proposals for the Donkin Coal Resource Block in December 2004, and three proponents responded to the call. The Xstrata Alliance was awarded the right to the resource area after a thorough evaluation of the proposals, which included presentations by all three proponents to a committee of reviewers from a number of Nova Scotia government departments. The selection was based on the demonstrated technical and fiscal capability to develop a large and complex undersea coal mine, the quality of the comprehensive proposal, and Xstrata's record of health and safety, environmental management, and community involvement in its coal mines around the world.

The Xstrata Donkin Mine Development Alliance comprises three companies: Xstrata Coal with a 66% interest, Kaoclay Resources with a 20% interest, and Atlantic Green Energy Development with a 14% interest. Xstrata Coal, based in Sydney, Australia, is a unit of Xstrata plc, a Swiss-based major global diversified mining group. Xstrata Coal operates more than 30 coal mines in Australia and South Africa, producing over 70 million tonnes of coal a year. Xstrata plc also acquired a significant shareholding in Falconbridge Limited during 2005.

Over the next two years, the Alliance plans to conduct an extensive resource evaluation and complete a thorough feasibility study leading to the development of the Donkin coal resource.

Don Jones



Map of the Sydney area, Cape Breton Island, showing approximate location of the Donkin Coal Resource Block.

Dates to Remember

March 31, 2006
Chamber of Mineral Resources of Nova Scotia, Annual General Meeting, Best Western Glengarry Motel, Truro, Nova Scotia. For more information call Terry Daniels at 902-798-0187.

May 14-17, 2006
Geological Association of Canada - Mineralogical Association of Canada Annual Meeting: Planet Earth in Montreal. University of Quebec at Montreal (UQAM). For more information see the meeting web site: http://www.er.uqam.ca/nobel/gacmac/welcome.html.

May 15-18, 2006
Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists Annual Convention, Round Up Centre, Calgary, Alberta. For more information visit the web site: www.cspg.org.

June 1 and 2, 2006
Mining Society of Nova Scotia, Annual General Meeting at Dundee Resort. For more information call George Sigut at 902-567-2147.

August 17-20, 2006
Nova Scotia's Gem & Mineral Show 2006, Lion's Recreation Center, Western Ave., Parrsboro, Nova Scotia. For more information on the 40th Anniversary of this event, visit the web site: http://museum.gov.ns.ca/fgm/mineralgem/show.html.

November 6-8, 2006
Exploration and Mining New Brunswick 2006, Delta Hotel, Fredericton, New Brunswick. For more information e-mail: carol.mcneil-dobbelsteyn@gnb.ca.

November 9 and 10, 2006
Mining Matters 2006, Westin Nova Scotian Hotel, Hollis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia. For more information contact Mike MacDonald at 902-424-2523.